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REMONSTRANCE

AND

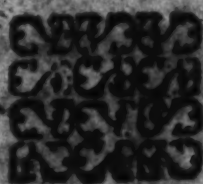
DECLARATION

of the Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen,
and Freeholders, in

COLCHESTER,

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Now in Armes for the King and
Kingdome.



July 6th.

London

Printed in the Yeere 1648.

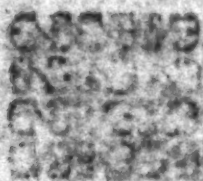
REMONSTRANCE

AND

DECLARATION

of the Knights, Bishops, Gentlemen,
and Freeholders in

COLCHESTER

Now in Arms for the Kingdom
Kingdom.

The Remonstrance from Colchester.



Petitions (the birth-right of Subjects) are by Law our addressees to our King, (*Our Sovereign*) by custom our approaches to the Houses of Parliament (His Majesties great Counsell;) by them wee used humbly to present our modest desires, and were wont to receive answer (as Gideons fleece the dew) without noyse, yet satisfactory; but that was denied our first *Petition*, and before our second could be ready, our brethren of *Surrey* by theirs echoed our prayer to both Houses of Parliament, but received their answer (as the Jewes their Law) in thunder and lightning, a two edged sword the tongue, and the report of Muskets the voyce which spake nothing but wounds and death.

We therefore thus admonished, resolved thus to present our grievances to the World, and our petitions to heaven, for a blessing upon our intended indeavours.

Our grievances are these:

1. First, the distraction and threatened ruine of our glorious *Protestant Church*, the neglect and abuse of *Religion*, the destruction of our *Universities*, (the springs of all Learning, Divine and Humane) occasioned by the fierce and ignorant *Separatists*, set up and maintayned as Rulers both in Church and State, by the prevalency and violence of a rebellious and destructive Army, under the command of the *L. Fairfax*, and countenanced

(4)
by the seeming authority of a pack, unfree, and over-awed Houses of Parliament.

2. Next, that contrary to the oath and duty of Allegiance, (from which no power can, nor yet hath pretended to absolve us) our Sovereigne Lord the King is by the designe of the sayd Army drawn from his house at *Hampton Court*, to the Isle of *Wight*, and there by the power of Col. *Hammond* and others of the Army, imprisoned, and detayned from his Parliament; by which act the sayd *Hammond* and all adhering to him, are according to the Votes passed in both Houses 16. March 1641. *Enemies to the peace of the Kingdome.*

3. A third, is the violent and unchristian separation of the King, his royall Consort and Children, at once depriving his Majesty of the two first blessings bestowed on man.

4. The forcing the Queene and Prince of Wales to seek in a Forraign Nation, what in their own they could not enjoy, *liberty, safety, and support.*

5. The exercise of *Martial Law* while the Courts of Justice are open, and sitting at Westminster, the obstructing justice in our Courts of Judicature, and by the private Committee of Indemnity perverting judgement, and exercising arbytrary power, which is a *subversion* of our ancient Lawes, and an introducing of a *tyrannicall* government, as was resolved by both Houses in the cases of the Earle of *Strafford*, and Archb. shop of *Canterbury*, and writ in their blood.

6. Sixtly, the present mischief and future danger to the whole Kingdome, by reason that the publique affaires of highest concerne, are managed and carryed on by a few particular men in a private Committee at *Down*.

(5)
by those, wherein (contrary to the selfe denying Obedi-
nance) the prime Actors are chiefe Officers of the Ar-
my, and have by old unhappy differences, possesse them-
selves of the most beneficiall Offices and employments
of the Kingdom; and the other places of profit and
commodity, are by their designs conferred on other
members of the Army and houses of Parliament, to
purchase their compliances and Votes: In all matters agi-
tated in the houses of Parliament: by reason whereof all
motions for his Majesties returne to his Parliament (the
first step to our desired peace) have been eyther totally
rejected, or by them politikely delayde, because peace
would determine both their power and profit.

7. The estates of Delinquents, the Lands of Bishops,
Deanes and Chapters, (designed by severall Ordinances
for discharge of publique debts) are by the houses
and power of the Army seized and divided among
themselves, while the publique debts be unpaid, the
common soldier unpaid, the maimed unserved, the
widow and children of the slain unprovided for, and all
left burdens to the Common wealth.

8. That the Army consisting of mean, ignorant, and
illiterate men, (only guilt with hypocrisie divine and ci-
vill) under pretence of tender consciences (the better to
induce and tolerate all heresies) have expelled and sup-
pressed all learned *Orthodox Divines*, and *Orthodox Go-
vernment*, and crying *Liberty, Liberty*, have subjected
our persons and estates to arbitrary Law and tyranny;
and by rape imbracing the *legislative power*, cuckold the
body polittick, giving Laws to the *whole Kingdom*, and
yet by Petitions and Remonstrances make both Hou-
ses Father (as their owne) the *adulterous issue*.

That this Army offering to themselves the
doing and suffering both of Church and State, on
Wednesday April 1st, in their Council did consult these
three Questions.

First, whether they will, yee with the Levellers,
and new modell both Church and State.

or Next, whether with the moderate Party, to
receive the King with more qualified and limited
victories.

Thirdly, whether they will, yee with the
Prince, receive the Duke of York, and appoint a
Protector.

The first was held to promise most of liberty and
profit; but threatened greatest danger in effecting, and
difficulty in continuing.

The second was held to be easiest obtained and
continued; because nearest to the present frame and
constitution already settled, but would bring them little
of profit, and loss of Sovereignty.

The third (like Benjamin, left in birth, but first in the
the Parents affections) was held not difficult to be acted
but to be maintained, for it would require both the ex-
pence of much blood and money; and the Kingdom
to reach York and Lancaster, under the names of Duke
and York.

To this L. G. Cromwell answered that the first
would necessitate the continuance of our Army, which secures our
persons, will enforce our reasons, make us our demands, and facili-
tate their grant. For the blood that will flow from the cheap
vaines of Common Soldiers, whereof England hath plenty, and
you will not want. For the money, London is our Bank, and from
their purses is shall drain to our coffers.

Commissary Ireton, L. G. Cromwell Son in Law said

the whole our best duty, for we have already voted to ad-
dress to his Majesty the King, and his Council of Regency, enough
to depose him, and by transferring his Person have settled him for a
private life, and by it taught the people that he is subject to the
dispose of both Houses of Parliament, whose Ordinances are made
powerful by our Swords, and therefore the Address shall be legal
by their vote. Further the Prince (said he) is taken with his
Father's illness, and therefore could be seen in no public manner;
his health and Conversation is different from his Father's, and that
against the Parliament, a crime that is not in the Father's
who is deposed, so death is the same guilt to succeed to the Govern-
ment. And that the dispose of the Crown gave to him (as it
did Hen. 7.) let us in the Father's life time (remove the Duke of
York, now in our Power, whose tender years have preserved
him innocent, and presents him first for protection and not de-
struction, and should any blame our loyalty towards the King and Prince,
others will commend our charity towards the Duke of York.

¶ We therefore declare to the world that God bless-
ing us, we will with hazard of our lives and fortunes
disband and dissipate this Army, the suppressors of the
pure *Protestant Religion*, the imprisoners, and would be
the murderers of their Sovereigne Lord the King, and
grand oppressors of the Common-wealth; then free
from imprisonment our said Sovereigne, and him (God
willing) restore to his lawfull Government, *his*
Rights and Liberties in Parliament, this done we shall
fully and readily deposit our justly assumed armes, and
on our knees beg what his Majesty hath often most gra-
tiously offered, and will undoubtedly grant his most
Royall and gracious pardon to all his misled Subjects
willing to returne to their Allegiance, and forward to
bring the King back to his owne house.

We therefore hereby earnestly desire and request all
loyall and well affected Subjects, as well Members of
both Houses of Parliament as others, to be heartily
standing and assisting to us. First, by not receiving the For-
ces of the Lo. Fairfax; next, by withdrawing all ayde
and assistance from his Army, by withholding *Excise*
and *Mensury taxes* allotted for their pay and support, and
to give us with their prayers such assistance as their al-
legiance, and Opportunity shall advise; and we trust that
the God that judgeth rightly, will crowne our loyall
affion with happy success, and our success with a
glorious Peace, which is heartily prayed for, and shall
(God willing) be resolutely fought for by us, his Ma-
jesties Loyall and faithfull Subjects in Christenwell A 100

THE END OF THE WORLD, 1642